

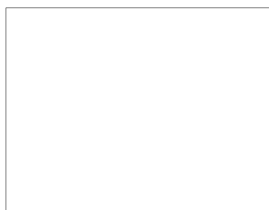
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**PHOTOGRAPHIC  
INTERPRETATION  
REPORT**

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC  
INTERPRETATION CENTER**

**DEFENSIVE GROUND ACTIVITY  
NORTHEAST CHINA**



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AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING  
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**ABSTRACT**

1. This report describes 13 selected areas in northeastern China which have shown evidence of defensive ground force activity during the past 18 months. Eleven of the areas are in Inner Mongolia and two are in Hopeh Province. All are within 300 nautical miles of the Sino-Soviet border. The report contains a description of each of the areas, a table summarizing the activity observed, a location map, and four photographs.

**INTRODUCTION**

2. Ground force activity has taken place at 13 selected areas within 300 nautical miles (nm) of the Sino-Soviet border in northeastern China during the past 18 months. The examination of photography was limited to that area north of China's central industrial area (Figure 1). All the activity observed was apparently defensive. In eight of the areas the activity consisted of construction of caves, personnel trenches, and vehicle revetments. In the other areas the defensive activity consisted of movement of ground force weapons into these areas. All the areas were located in hilly or mountainous terrain. Table 1 (with area numbers keyed to Figure 1) presents a summary and a location of the activity observed.

**BASIC DESCRIPTION****Pai-yun-o-po Defensive Area NNE (Area 1)**

3. This area is 4 nm north-northeast of Pai-yun-o-po and approximately 45 nm south of the Mongolian border. It consists of numerous areas of activity scattered over an approximately 5-square-nm area. These areas of activity contained extensive trenching and numerous revetments as well as track activity and some buildings under construction. At least 90 tents and 15 caves were observed in July and August 1970. This area is near Pai-yun-o-po Mining Areas, the largest coal mining complex in the region. This complex is served by the only rail line leading north from the Pao-tou Complex [REDACTED]

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**Ku-yang Military Activity (Area 2)**

4. Ku-yang is approximately 100 nm south of the Mongolian border and supports Ku-yang Mining Complex [REDACTED] which is served by a rail spur from the Pai-yun-o-po to Pao-tou rail line. Six assault guns were observed at Ku-yang Army Barracks AL 5 [REDACTED] in June 1970 and were still present in September 1970. No tanks were observed here in June or September, although three were seen in April. Ground force weapons were first observed in the area in September 1969 when 18 AAA pieces were noted immediately north of Ku-yang. In November 1969 tanks and field-artillery (FA) pieces were observed for the first time at Ku-yang Army Barracks AL 1 [REDACTED], and the AAA pieces observed in September 1969 were also present. In April 1970, five SU-76 assault guns and three tanks were observed at Ku-yang Army Barracks AL 5 [REDACTED]

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5. Ground force activity in the hilly terrain 4 nm north of Ku-yang at 41-05-30N 110-03-00E was observed on [REDACTED] the first high-resolution photography of the area. This activity included trenching on the hillsides and the construction of numerous vehicle revetments. At least 60 tents, nine FA pieces, and 12 AAA pieces were observed; nine small support/storage buildings were under construction. This area was in a very early stage of development in October 1969; increased development was observed in June 1970.

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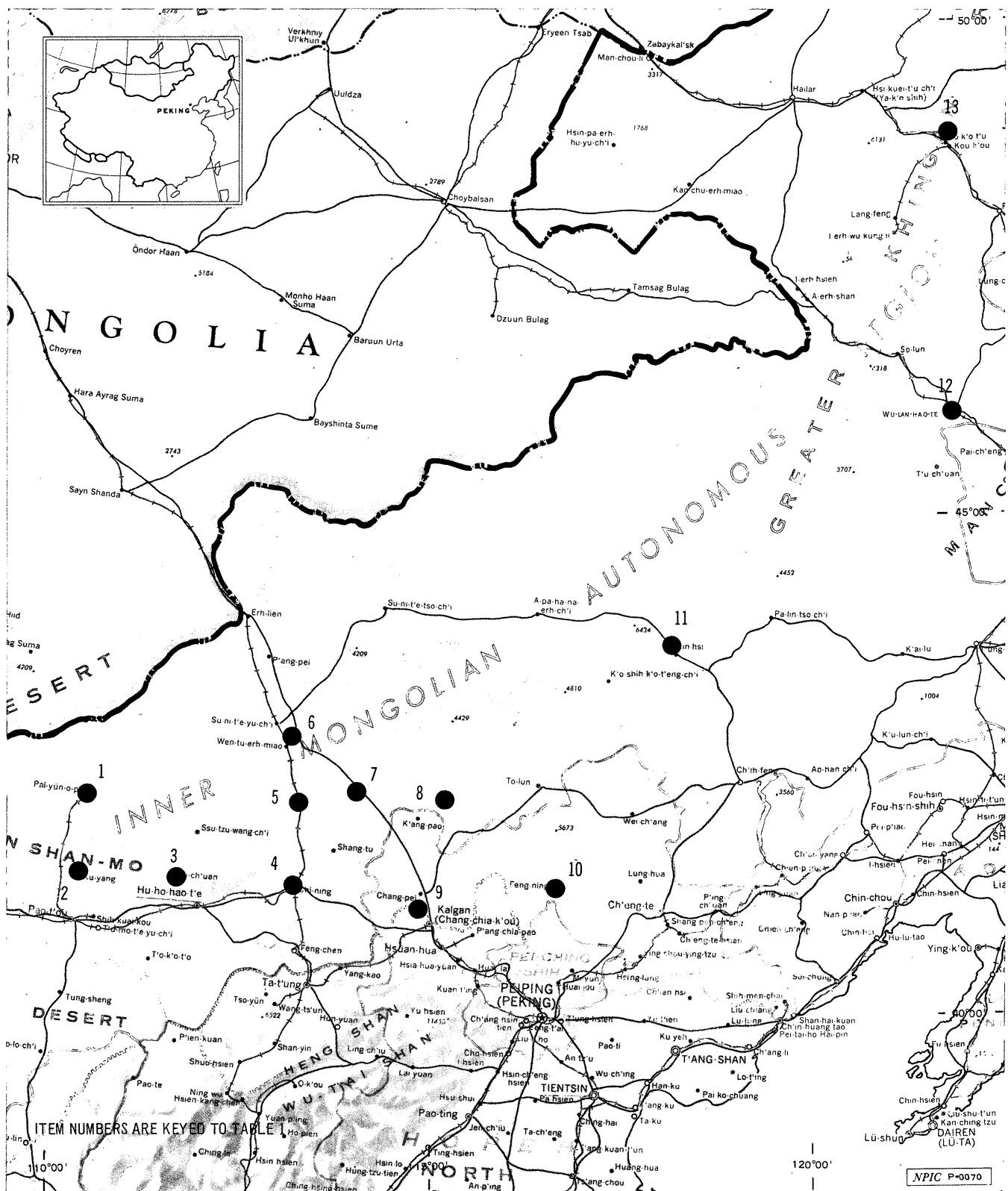


FIGURE 1. DEFENSIVE GROUND ACTIVITY, NORTHEAST CHINA (AREAS KEYED TO TABLE 1)

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*Table 1. Data on Defensive Ground Force Activity, Northeast China  
(Areas Keyed to Figure 1)*

Area	Coordinates	Location	Activity Observed	Latest High-Resolution Coverage	High Totals-Vehicles & Equipment	
1	41-49N 110-01E	5-sq-nm area 4 nm NNE of Pai-yun-o-po	None	Trenches, vehicle revetments, track activity, caves, and tents	None	
2	41-02N 110-02E	3 nm west of Ku-yang		Caves, trenches, weapons positions, barracks construction, vehicle revetments, and tents	9 FA pieces (Aug 70), 6 SU-76 assault guns (Jun 70), 3 prob 130mm field guns and 18 T-54- type tanks (Nov 69), 18 AAA pieces (Sep 69)	25X1
3	41-05N 111-27E	4 nm south of Wu-chuan	None	Trenches, cave-like excavations, vehicle revetments, and probable personnel tents	None	
4	41-01N 113-06E	5- by 5-nm area 1 nm SW of Chi- ning (Figure 2)		Trenches, caves, AAA and FA positions, vehicle revetments, and at least 70 personnel tents	9 FA and 6 possible FA pieces (Jun 70), 12 AAA pieces (Nov 69)	25X1
5	41-57N 113-13E	2-sq-nm area 2.3 nm north of Ko-hua-ssu-tai (Figures 3 and 4)	None	Caves, trenches, vehicle revetments, and at least 15 tents	6 T-54 tanks 6 nm SW of Ko-hua-ssu-tai (Apr 70)	
6	42-20N 113-00E	9 nm SE of Chu-jih-ho	None	Approximately 100 personnel tents in Oct 1969; area appeared abandoned in July 1970	None	
7	42-04N 113-45E	2-sq-nm area 16 nm NNW of Hua-te	None	Trenches, vehicle revetments, and cave construction	None	
8	41-55N 115-14E	2.5-sq-nm area 2.5 nm NNW of Tai-pu-ssu-chi	None	Trenches, revetments, possible FA positions, and at least 45 tents	None	
9	40-59N 114-30E	17- by 2-nm area 20 nm NNW of Chang-chia-kou	None	Trenches, vehicle revetments, AAA and FA positions, and tent camps	None	
10	41-09N 116-39E	1 nm SSW of Feng-ning		At least one probable artillery regiment. Armor has been seen east and northeast of the town.	12 FA pieces, ten 160mm mortars, and 20 probable 37mm AAA pieces (Oct 70); 106 cargo trucks and at least 3 tanks (Jan 70)	25X1
11	43-36N 118-02E	6.5 nm around Lin-hsi		Trenches, vehicles and vehicle revetments, AAA sites, and assault guns	2 SU-76 assault guns, 34 37mm AAA pieces, 58 cargo trucks, and 3 van trucks (Oct 70)	
12	46-03N 122-04E	At Wu-lan-hao-te		FA pieces observed in this area for first time (Aug 70)	18 FA pieces (Aug 70)	
13	48-49N 121-51E	5 nm NW of Po-ko-tu (Figure 5)		FA and AAA observed in this area for first time (Aug 70)	6 FA pieces, 11 possible 37mm AAA pieces, and 16 cargo trucks (Aug 70)	

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25X1**Wu-chuan Defensive Area South (Area 3)**

6. This area is 4 nm south of Wu-chuan and approximately 115 nm south of the Mongolian border in the northern Shan-mo Mountains. Extensive trenching, probable weapons positions, new cave-like excavations, vehicle revetments, and probable personnel tents were observed throughout the area in July 1970. Defensive activity in this area was not evident on photography of November 1968. Cave construction was first observed in February 1969; trenching was first observed along the mountain tops and ridges in March 1970. This defensive area apparently fortifies the only direct mountain pass and good road which connects Wu-chuan and Hu-ho-hao-te.

**Chi-ning Defensive Area SW (Area 4)**

7. This area is immediately southwest of Chi-ning and approximately 160 nm south of the Mongolian border. It covers a 5- by 5-nm area in the hilly terrain between the two rail lines leading south and west from Chi-ning, a major urban area on the Pang-pei to Chi-ning rail line, the only rail line in China that enters Mongolia. The first high-resolution photography of this area was in November 1969 when only a small section of the defensive area was covered. Personnel tents, occupied AAA positions, and the start of trenching and vehicle revetments were observed (Figure 2). Photography [redacted] again covered only a small section of the total area. However, extensive trenching was evident throughout the hilly terrain; six unoccupied AAA positions were observed; and nine FA pieces and six possible FA pieces were noted in the immediate vicinity, ten of which were parked in revetments. Photography of July 1970 covered the entire area. At least 70 personnel tents and at least 85 vehicle revetments could be counted but, because of small-scale photography and poor ground resolution, ground order-of-battle equipment was not discernible.

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**Ko-hua-ssu-tai Defensive Area North (Area 5)**

8. This area is 2.3 nm north of Ko-hua-ssu-tai and approximately 115 nm south of the Mongolian border. An increase in activity was observed in this area between March and July 1970 (Figure 4). In July, trenching was evident throughout the hilly terrain, and vehicle revetments and at least 15 tents were observed for the first time. Cave construction and the amount of track activity leading into and throughout the area had also increased. Ground forces activity in this area was low in February 1969 (Figure 3); only a few old cave excavations were observed. Activity appeared to increase in October 1969 when roads to the area were more evident and several new caves were under construction. No change was apparent in March 1970.

**Chu-jih-ho Defensive Area SSE (Area 6)**

9. This area is 9 nm southeast of Chu-jih-ho and approximately 60 nm south of the Mongolian border. It appeared to be abandoned in July 1970, but on earlier photography (October 1969), seven tent camps, numerous caves, and at least 100 personnel tents were scattered throughout the area. The reason for abandoning this site is not known but it could be reoccupied in the event of hostile action.

**Hua-te Defensive Area NNW (Area 7)**

10. This area is 16 nm north-northwest of Hua-te and approximately 115 nm southeast of the Mongolian border. Photography of July 1970 showed a 2-square-nm area that contained extensive trenching and vehicle revetments. New caves, possible FA positions, five personnel tents, and unidentified equipment were also observed. Earlier, in February 1969, only a few caves were observed. The first noticeable increase in activity was in October 1969 when new caves and some trenches were being dug and a few personnel tents were seen.

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25X1**Tai-pu-ssu-chi Defensive Area NNW ( Area 8)**

11. This area is approximately 2.5 nm north-northwest of Tai-pu-ssu-chi and approximately 150 nm south of the Mongolian border. A defensive area of approximately 2.5 square nm was observed on photography of July 1970. Extensive trenching was observed in the hillsides and numerous vehicle revetments, possible FA positions, and at least 45 tents were dispersed throughout the area.

**Chang-chia-kou Defensive Area NNW ( Area 9)**

12. This area is 20 nm north-northwest of Chang-chia-kou and approximately 220 nm south of the Mongolian border. The defensive activity covered a 17- by 2-nm area along a large escarpment. Extensive trenching and numerous AAA sites and FA positions were observed along this escarpment in July 1970; numerous vehicle revetments were dispersed throughout the area. Several small tent camps were also observed. No noticeable activity was observed in November 1968. The first evidence of new activity was in October 1969 when some ground scarring and track activity were seen.

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13. Feng-ning is approximately 80 nm north of Peking and 250 nm southeast of the Mongolian border. Artillery and armor were first seen within 6.5 nm of Feng-ning on photography of January 1970, and artillery was seen again in April and August 1970. The areas covered in April and August did not include the area where the armor had first been observed. High-resolution coverage of October 1970 showed extensive trenching, 137 vehicle revetments, 106 vehicles, 12 FA pieces, ten 160mm mortars, and twenty 37mm AAA pieces for the first time. This concentration of vehicles and equipment suggests that at least one probable artillery regiment is deployed in the Feng-ning area.

**Lin-hsi Military Activity (Area 11)**

14. Lin-hsi is approximately 155 nm southeast of the Mongolian border. It is one of the largest towns in this remote area and is on a major transportation route connecting this area with the central industrial region of north China. The first evidence of ground force activity around the town of Lin-hsi was in August 1970. Photography of October 1970 indicated military activity in a 3.5-nm radius around Lin-hsi. Two occupied and seven unoccupied AAA sites, vehicle revetments, and adits were observed in the hilly terrain around the town; thirty-four 37mm AAA pieces were noted in several areas and 61 wheeled vehicles were seen. Seven of these wheeled vehicles were at Lin-hsi Army Barracks AL 1 [REDACTED]. Two SU-76 assault guns were parked in a secured area in the center of town. These guns were also present in August.

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**Wu-lan-hao-te Military Activity (Area 12)**

15. Wu-lan-hao-te is approximately 98 nm east of the Mongolian border on a rail line that terminates 20 nm east of the border of A-erh-shan. This rail line runs southeast from Wu-lan-hao-te to the town of Pai-cheng where one of China's most extensive weapons test ranges is located. Eighteen FA pieces were observed for the first time on the southwest edge of town on photography of August 1970, but were not present in October 1970.

**Po-ko-tu Military Activity (Area 13)**

16. This area is 5nm northwest of Po-ko-tu and approximately 175nm east of Man-chou-li. Po-ko-tu is on one of the few rail lines which cross the Greater Kningan Mountains and on one of the two rail lines that connect China and the Soviet Union. The first high-resolution coverage of the Po-ko-tu area (August 1970) revealed ground force activity in three small areas approximately 5 nm northwest of town (Figure 5). Six FA pieces, 11 possible 37mm AAA pieces, and 16 cargo trucks were observed. At least 13 personnel tents and 22 probable barracks (one of which was under construction) were also observed in the three areas.

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REFERENCE DATA (Continued)

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**MAPS OR CHARTS**

ACIC. USAF Pilotage Chart, Sheets F-8C, F-9A, and F-9D, scale 1:500,000

ACIC. USAF Tactical Pilotage Chart, Sheet E-8C, scale 1:500,000

**REQUIREMENT**

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